

GCSE HISTORY REVISION USING FLASHCARDS

SMALL CARDS
BIG RESULTS!



WHY USE FLASHCARDS?



Helps you remember key facts, dates, people and ideas.



Uses **active recall** – one of the most effective revision methods.



Makes you **focus** on the most important information.



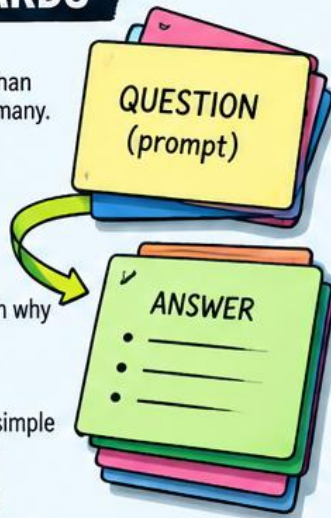
Great for **quick, regular revision** (anywhere, anytime).



Builds **confidence** and helps identify what you still need to work on.

HOW TO MAKE FLASHCARDS

- 1 Choose a topic**
E.g. Crime & Punishment, Early Elizabethan England, British America or Weimar Germany.
- 2 Write a question or prompt on one side.**
Keep it short and clear.
- 3 Write the answer on the back.**
Use key facts, dates, examples and explain why it's important.
- 4 Keep it concise.**
Use key words, bullet points, dates or a simple diagram – don't copy whole paragraphs.
- 5 Use different colours, symbols or images to make them memorable.**



WHAT TO INCLUDE?

- ✓ Key names and dates
- ✓ Important events and what happened
- ✓ Causes, consequences and significance
- ✓ Key terms and definitions
- ✓ Examples or evidence
- ✓ Links between topics (e.g. change over time) where relevant

Key term?
Definition?
Example?

★ TOP TIPS

- ✓ Keep each card to one idea.
- ✓ Use your own words.
- ✓ Include dates and specific examples.
- ✓ Add diagrams, timelines or images if it helps.
- ✓ Test yourself regularly (don't just read them).
- ✓ Mix up the order.
- ✓ Focus more on the cards you find difficult.



EXAMPLE FLASHCARDS (ONE SIDE = QUESTION, OTHER SIDE = ANSWER)

CRIME & PUNISHMENT c.1000–present

What was the purpose of punishment in medieval England?

- To deter, to make an example, to deal with crime,
- to maintain order, and to reflect religious beliefs (e.g. sin and repentance).

EARLY ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND 1558–88

Why was Elizabeth's position challenged in 1569?

- Northern Rebellion backed by Catholic nobles and Spain.
- Aimed to replace Elizabeth with Mary, Queen of Scots.
- Serious threat as it had noble support and foreign backing.

BRITISH AMERICA 1713–83

What were the consequences of the Stamp Act (1765)?

- Increased colonial unity and anger.
- Led to boycotts.
- Sons of Liberty became more active.
- Britain eventually had to repeal it (but issued the Declaratory Act).

WEIMAR GERMANY 1918–39

Why was the Weimar Republic weakened by the Treaty of Versailles?

- Harsh terms (war guilt, reparations, loss of land).
- Seen as unfair by many Germans.
- Allowed the Nazis to blame the Weimar government.
- Created economic and political instability.

HOW TO USE THEM EFFECTIVELY



1. TEST YOURSELF

Look at the question side and try to recall the answer without looking.

2. CHECK

Turn the card over and see if you were right. Add extra detail if needed.

3. SORT

Keep a 'know well' pile and a 'need to work on' pile. Focus on the difficult ones.

4. REPEAT

Go over your cards regularly (e.g. a few minutes each day). Use spaced repetition – revisit over time.

5. PRACTISE IN DIFFERENT WAYS

- Quiz a friend or family member.
- Randomly pick cards.
- Mix topics together.
- Use them to answer exam-style questions.



GCSE HISTORY REVISION USING MIND MAPS

TURN BIG TOPICS INTO CLEAR VISUAL NOTES!



WHY USE MIND MAPS?



Helps you see the big picture and how ideas connect.



Makes complex topics simpler and easier to remember.



Good for **active recall** – you're summarising in your own words.



Helps you **make links** between events, causes, consequences and themes.



Quicker and more engaging than long notes.



Builds confidence and helps with exam answers.

HOW TO MAKE A MIND MAP

1

Choose a topic

E.g. Crime & Punishment, Early Elizabethan England, British America or Weimar Germany.

2

Write the main idea in the centre

Use a clear title and an image or symbol.

3

Add main branches

Break the topic into key sub-topics (e.g. causes, events, people, consequences).

4

Add key details

Use brief notes, dates, key terms and examples – not full sentences.

5

Use colour, images and symbols

Different colours for each branch. Add simple drawings to help you remember.

6

Make connections

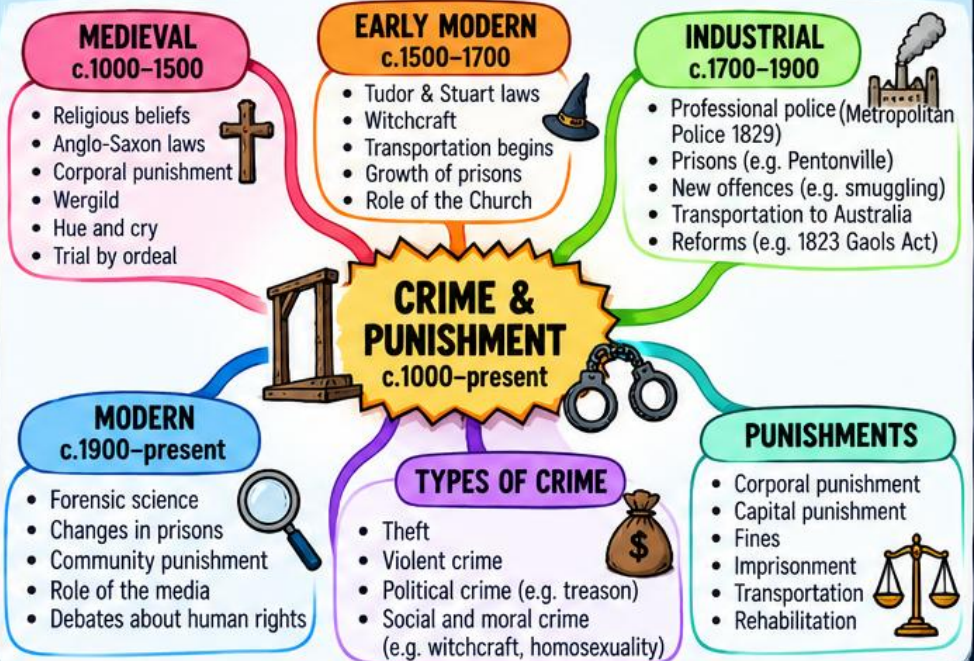
Use arrows or dotted lines to show links between ideas (e.g. cause → consequence).

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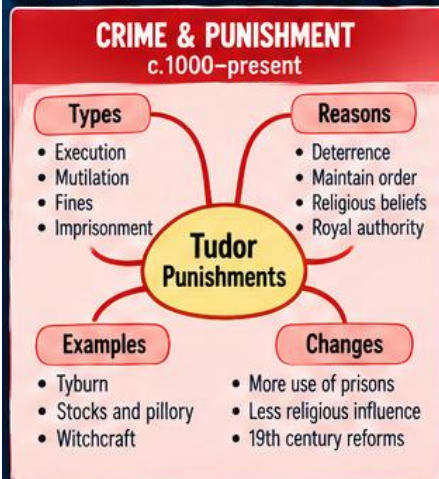
Keep it concise

Short phrases, key words and dates only.

EXAMPLE: CRIME & PUNISHMENT MIND MAP



EXAMPLE TOPICS FOR EACH UNIT



TOP TIPS

- ✓ Use one sheet of paper per topic.
- 🎯 Keep it clear and organised.
- ✍️ Use key words, not long sentences.
- 🖼️ Add images, symbols or dates.
- 🔗 Make links between ideas.
- 💡 Use your own words – don't just copy from the textbook.
- 🔄 Test yourself – cover it up and try to recreate it from memory.
- ★ Update and add to your mind maps regularly.

GCSE HISTORY REVISION USING BRAIN DUMPS

EMPTY YOUR BRAIN
FILL YOUR GRADES!



WHAT IS A BRAIN DUMP?



A brain dump is when you write down **everything you can remember** about a topic from **memory**, without looking at your notes.

It helps you **check what you know**, **find gaps** in your knowledge and **improve your long-term memory**.

WHY USE BRAIN DUMPS?



Active recall – one of the most effective ways to remember information.



Shows you **what you know** and what you need to improve.



Builds confidence and helps you remember key details in exams.



Quick, simple and can be done anywhere.



Improves long-term memory and links between ideas.

HOW TO DO A BRAIN DUMP

1

Choose a topic

(e.g. the causes of crime, Elizabeth's problems in 1569, the American Revolution, the Weimar Republic).

2

Set a timer

10–15 minutes.



3

Write everything you can remember

Key dates, people, events, causes, consequences, key terms, examples, diagrams – anything!

4

Check and improve

Use your notes or knowledge organiser to add missing information in a different colour.

TOP TIPS



Use a blank piece of paper – no notes!



Write in any order – it doesn't have to be neat.



Include a mix of dates, key people, events, causes, consequences and key terms.



Use colours, boxes and simple diagrams.



Don't worry about getting everything right – the goal is to remember as much as you can.



Check, correct and add in missing information afterwards.



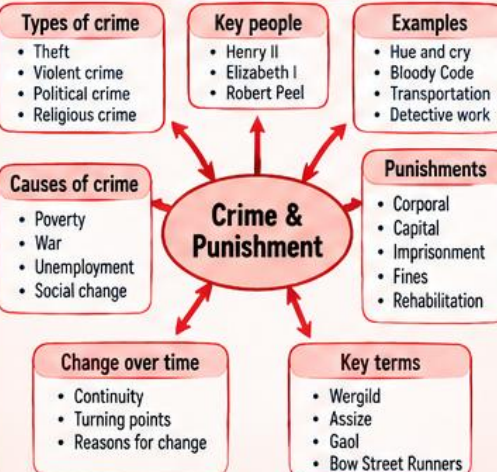
Do brain dumps regularly and space them out over time.

Dates?
People?
Events?
Causes?
Consequences?
Key terms?
Examples?

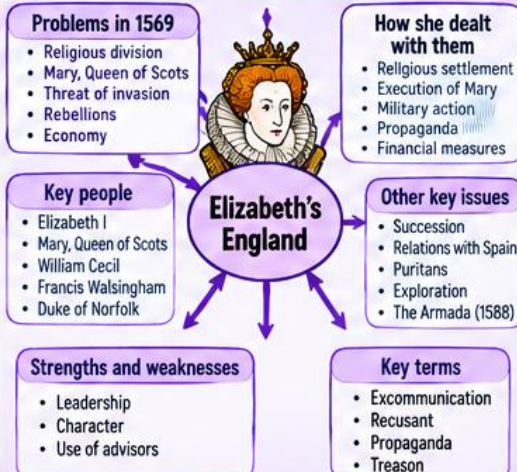


EXAMPLES: BRAIN DUMP SHEETS FOR EDEXCEL GCSE HISTORY TOPICS

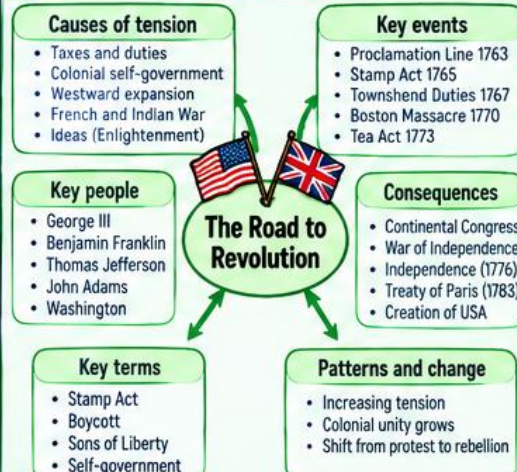
CRIME & PUNISHMENT c.1000–present



EARLY ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND 1558–88



BRITISH AMERICA 1713–83



WEIMAR GERMANY 1918–39



HOW TO USE BRAIN DUMPS EFFECTIVELY



1. CHOOSE A TOPIC

Pick a specific area from your course.



2. SET A TIMER

10–15 minutes.



3. WRITE EVERYTHING YOU CAN REMEMBER

Use key words, dates, names, diagrams and links.



4. CHECK AND IMPROVE

Add missing information in a different colour.



5. REPEAT REGULARLY

Keep coming back to topics over time to strengthen your memory.

GCSE HISTORY REVISION – TOP TIPS

WORK SMARTER
NOT HARDER!



1. KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REVISING AND WHY

- ✓ Focus on the key topics for your exams (what will actually be tested).
- ✓ Check your specification, knowledge organisers and class notes.
- ✓ Revision helps you remember key facts, explain events and make strong judgements in exam questions.
- ✓ The more you revise, the more confident you will feel in the exam.



2. PLAN YOUR REVISION

- ✓ Make a revision timetable and break the topics down into smaller chunks.
- ✓ Be realistic – build in breaks and leave time for other subjects.
- ✓ Use a range of revision methods (see below).
- ✓ Set yourself goals (e.g. one topic a week).

REVISION TIMETABLE (EXAMPLE)

Mon	Crime & Punishment (Anglo-Saxon-Tudor)
Tue	Early Elizabethan England
Wed	British America
Thu	Weimar Germany
Fri	Practice exam questions
Sat	Review and brain dump
Sun	Rest / catch up

3. USE A RANGE OF REVISION METHODS

Flashcards



Quickly test key facts, dates, people and terms.

Mind maps



Show how ideas are connected.

Brain dumps



Write everything you can remember from memory, then check and add in gaps.

Practice questions



Get used to the exam format and improve your answers.

Knowledge organisers



A clear summary of the key information.

Dual coding



Use simple drawings, symbols and colours to help you remember.

4. MAKE YOUR REVISION ACTIVE

DON'T JUST READ YOUR NOTES – DO SOMETHING WITH THEM!

- ✓ Test yourself – look, cover, write, check.
- ✓ Use past exam questions and mark your answers.
- ✓ Explain topics out loud (to a family member or even yourself).
- ✓ Turn notes into flashcards or mind maps.
- ✓ Try to make links between topics (e.g. causes, consequences, change over time).
- ✓ Use different colours, images and symbols.
- ✓ Regularly go back and revisit information.



LOOK

COVER

WRITE

CHECK

REPEAT

THE MORE YOU MAKE YOUR BRAIN WORK,
THE MORE YOU WILL REMEMBER!

5. PRACTISE EXAM SKILLS

- ✓ Know what each question is asking.
- ✓ Plan your answer before you write.
- ✓ Use the correct structure (e.g. PEEL).
- ✓ Include accurate knowledge, specific examples and key dates.
- ✓ Practise different question types (4, 8, 12 and 16 marks).
- ✓ Get feedback and improve your answers.

PEEL STRUCTURE

- P** **Point**
Answer the question.
- E** **Evidence**
Use specific knowledge (e.g. dates, examples).
- E** **Explain**
Explain how/why it supports your point.
- L** **Link**
Link back to the question or make a comparison.

6. LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

- ✓ Get enough sleep (aim for 7–8 hours).
- ✓ Take regular breaks.
- ✓ Stay hydrated and eat well.
- ✓ Do things you enjoy outside of revision.
- ✓ Ask for help if you're struggling.

A HEALTHY
MIND HELPS
YOU LEARN
BETTER!



7. STAY POSITIVE

- ✓ Be consistent – little and often is more effective than last-minute cramming.
- ✓ Celebrate your progress.
- ✓ Don't compare yourself to others.
- ✓ Mistakes are part of learning.
- ✓ Revision now will give you more choice in the future.



YOU
CAN DO
THIS!

REVISION TODAY = BETTER RESULTS
TOMORROW